

WORKING DRAFT 3/21/03

Issue: Water Quality - Gulf of the Farallones NMS

Problem Statement: Water quality within the Gulf of the Farallones NMS is generally good due to the rural nature of the coastline, lack of major industrial discharges, and exposure of the coastline to the strong currents of the open ocean. Nevertheless, there are several potential threats to water quality in the Sanctuary that should be considered in revising the Management Plan. The rural estuarine habitats and adjacent coastal waters of Bolinas Lagoon, Tomales Bay, Estero Americano, and Estero de San Antonio are vulnerable to land-based nonpoint source pollution from livestock grazing, agricultural activities, past mining activities and aging and undersized septic systems. Depending on coastal currents, the 8 million people living in the Bay Area and the discharge of the San Francisco Bay Estuary may periodically have an impact on the Sanctuary. Agricultural waste products from the Central Valley and residual sediments and metals from historical mining may also pass through the Bay into the Sanctuary. Other potential threats to water quality include diversion of fresh water, floating debris (e.g., plastics), pathogens, radioactive waste, accidental spills, and residual materials from ocean dumping such as chemical contaminants including bioaccumulative legacy pollutants (e.g. DDT, PCBs).

GOAL (what)	OBJECTIVE/STRATEGY (what)	OUTCOME/ACTION (how)
Engage in corrective and proactive measures to protect and enhance water quality in the estuarine, nearshore, and offshore environments of the Sanctuary.	<div>1. Develop a regionally-based, co-operative water quality protection plan to address point and non-point source water quality impacts. This plan will emphasize a watershed/ ecosystem approach.</div> <div>1a. Address the range of water quality threats from chronic land-based runoff (non-point source) to catastrophic offshore events.</div> <div>X 2. Propose new Sanctuary regulatory actions as necessary to achieve water quality goal.</div>	<div>Education/Outreach</div> <div>1a. develop and implement public outreach plan</div> <div>1b. Coordinate with agencies on "best management practices" outreach plan</div> <div>1c. develop outreach plan for marinas, agriculture, recreational use, urban areas</div> <div>1g. Identify and help coordinate regional water quality monitoring programs</div> <div>Research/Monitoring</div> <div>1d. inventory and evaluate regional water quality monitoring plans</div> <div>1e. process data and identify gaps</div> <div>X 1f. Identify sources and evaluate impacts from agricultural and rural lands and land-based industries</div> <div>Evaluate importance of freshwater inflow on ecosystems</div> <div>Marine Resource Protection</div> <div>2a. evaluate current regulatory authority and make recommendation on strengthening language and/or proposing new language as appropriate</div> <div>2b. evaluate effectiveness of local ordinances</div> <div>Administration</div> <div>1g. identify agency partners</div>